

Program Authorization: The Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECP) is a commissioning program designed to afford outstanding performers the opportunity to complete the educational requirements for an entry-level baccalaureate degree in nursing and earn a commission as a nurse corps (NC) officer, U.S. Navy (designator 2900). Medical Department and Nurse Corps Officer Community Manager (BUPERS-315) is the NC officer community manager (OCM). The resource sponsor is Naval Medicine Professional Development Center (NAVMEDPDC) Officer Graduate Programs (Code 03C HMDT).

1. Program Authority: Title 10 U.S. Code sections 532, 2013 and 6323.
2. Cancellation: Program Authorization 116A, March 2007.
3. Quota: As prescribed by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education) (DCNO NI).
4. Qualifications:
  - a. Citizenship: Applicants must be United States citizens.
  - b. Age: Applicants must be commissioned before their 42nd birthday.
  - c. Education:

(1) Applicants must be high school graduates. High school diplomas or equivalency certificates based upon military education experience and general equivalency diploma test results are acceptable if they are issued by the Department of Education of a State, commonwealth or territory of the United States of America or the District of Columbia.

(2) Applicants must have a collegiate cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and be accepted by a university accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Applicants must have completed a minimum of 45 quarter or 30 semester credit hours in undergraduate courses concentrated in the sciences. Credit hours may be a combination of traditional classroom courses, College Level Entry Program credit, on-line or distance learning programs or military training credits provided the school to which the application is made accepts the non-traditional credits.

(3) Have a certified copy of SAT or ACT test scores no older than 3 years from application due date. Minimum recommended scores are 1000 SAT (500 math and 500 critical reading/verbal) or 21 ACT math and 21 ACT english.

(4) Participants must maintain a cumulative GPA average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

(5) Participants will be enrolled on a full-time, year round basis, beginning in the Fall semester following selection.

(6) Participants must submit official transcripts upon completion of each school term to:

Naval Medicine Professional Development Center  
NAVMEDPDC (Code O3C HMDT) Officer Graduate Programs  
8901 Wisconsin Avenue Bldg 1/16<sup>th</sup> Fl (Tower)  
Bethesda, MD 20889-5611

(7) A selectee's failure to disclose complete academic transcripts or evidence of tampering in any way will result in disenrollment from MECF.

(8) Participation in a non-mandatory co-op or work-study program will not be authorized if such participation will cause delay in projected graduation date.

(9) Participants must remain at the university initially enrolled in and will not be permitted to extend their projected graduation date, cease attending classes, change majors, enter exchange programs or transfer schools without specific approval. Failure to obtain prior approval may result in disenrollment.

(10) Participants must be able to complete the requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from an institution accredited by the ACEN or CCNE, within 36 consecutive months from date of enrollment into the MECF. Full-time distance learning programs are not authorized.

(11) In addition to disenrollment for academic reasons, candidates may be disenrolled as a result of discipline/moral problems (drug usage, civil convictions, etc.).

d. Physical: Must meet pre-commissioning and accession physical standards for appointment as an officer as prescribed in the Manual of the Medical Department, Chapter 15. Minor physical defects, non-organic in nature, may be waived by DCNO N1 with the recommendation of Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED). The applicant must meet the physical fitness weight or percentage of body fat standards at the time of application, while in training, and at the time of commissioning. Applicants must be worldwide assignable.

e. Duty Preference: Not applicable.

f. Program Specific Requirements:

(1) License:

(a) NC officers must obtain and maintain an unrestricted license to practice as a professional registered nurse from a State, territory or the District of Columbia based on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

(b) Appointment as a NC officer may occur prior to licensure. However, the NCLEX examination must be taken at the first opportunity following completion of the baccalaureate program.

(c) An officer who fails the licensure examination for a third time will be processed for re-designation. Once an individual has been placed in the re-designation board process by the OCM, the re-designation process will not be rescinded, even if the member successfully completes the NCLEX.

(d) Officers not selected for re-designation or retention will be administratively discharged per Administrative Separation of Officers, SECNAVINST 1920.6C. Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs (M&RA)) may relieve an officer of incurred active duty obligation, considering the comments and recommendations of DCNO N1, when such action would be in the best interest of the naval service.

(e) Obtaining and maintaining a license to practice as a professional nurse is an expense incurred by the individual.

(f) Prior to appointment, applicants will be required to acknowledge in writing that they are aware of licensure requirements.

(2) **Conduct:** Applicants must have no record of non-judicial punishment, conviction by court martial or civil court for other than minor traffic violations during the 3 years preceding the fiscal year of the selection board for which the application is made. All minor traffic violations must be listed on the application. Driving under the influence of intoxicant violations will be considered major traffic violations and are disqualifying if within 3 years preceding the fiscal year of the selection board for which the application is made. A felony conviction or any record of in-service drug abuse, regardless of the date, is disqualifying for MECP. A person who is drug or alcohol dependent, abuses drugs or alcohol, whose pre-service abuse of drugs or alcohol indicates a proclivity to continue abuse in the Service or who has a record of trafficking offenses is ineligible for MECP.

(3) **Recommendation:** Applicants must be recommended by their commanding officer.

5. **Waivers:** Not applicable.

6. **Accession Source:** Applicants must be serving on active duty in either the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps or Navy Reserve under Full-Time Support. Personnel on Active Duty for Special Work, Definite Recall (1-, 2-, or 3-year recalls), Selective Reserve (SELRES) or Canvasser Recruiters are not eligible for this program.

7. **Indoctrination:** Upon commission, selectees will be assigned to the next available class at Officer Development School (ODS) in Newport, RI. Participants in the NROTC program will be ordered directly to first duty stations and will not attend ODS.

8. **Enlistment:** Selectees must reenlist for 6 years from the date of execution of orders to begin MECP training.

9. Constructive Entry Credit:

a. Entry grade credit will be awarded per Accession and Retention Policies, Programs, and Incentives for Military Health Professions Officers (HPOS), DoD Instruction 6000.13 of 30 December 2015 and Appointment of Regular and Reserve Officers in the Medical Corps of the Navy, OPNAVINST 1120.4C prior to commissioning.

b. Inter-Service Transfers: Inter-Service Transfer of Commissioned Officers, DoD Instruction 1300.04 of 25 July 2017 shall determine entry grade and date of rank of medical officers transferred from other uniformed services into the medical corps of the U. S. Navy.

10. Appointment: Upon successful completion of a baccalaureate or entry level master's degree in nursing (certified by the accredited college or university), the candidate will receive a permanent appointment in the grade of ensign, U.S. Navy, nurse corps (designator 2900). No subsequent reversion to an enlisted status is authorized.

11. Service Obligation:

a. Selectees will incur an 8 year commissioned service obligation. Total active-duty obligation is 4 years. Obligated time not spent on active duty will be served in the SELRES or the Individual Ready Reserve.

b. Selectees will maintain their enlisted status and be eligible for advancement in rating under the Navy advancement system.

c. Selectees disenrolled from MECP at any time, either for academic or administrative reasons, will be made available and issued permanent change of station orders to a new assignment in their enlisted rating to complete their active duty service obligation.

12. Pay and Allowances: Selectees continue to receive full pay and allowances and remain promotion eligible while in college. Selectees pay for tuition, fees, books and other school related expenses. Students may not use Navy sponsored tuition assistance, but may seek financial assistance from other sources including the Veteran's Educational Assistance Program, the Montgomery GI Bill/Post 9/11 GI Bill and the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society education assistance if eligible.

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. T. JABLON

Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy (N13)

Date:

3 Jun 19